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ELECTION CAMPAIGN :

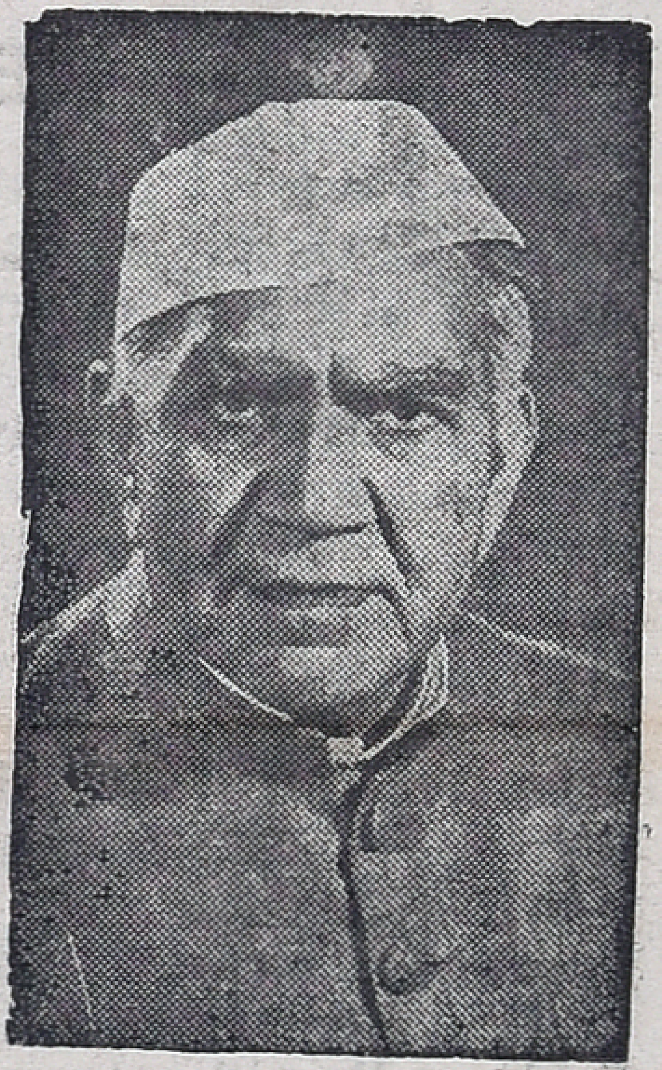
President's Call To Political Parties

Our democracy is on the eve of yet another milestone in its progress. Soon we shall have elections to the Lok Sabha. Election campaign will be in full swing shortly. President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, in his message to the nation on the eve of Republic Day, has appealed to all political parties to eschew bitterness and rancour in their campaigns and help maintain an atmosphere of peace and calm in the country. He also said that acts of violence and indiscipline are incompatible with the practice of democracy.

THE following is the text of the President's message to the nation on the eve of Republic Day:

To-morrow we are celebrating the 28th Republic Day. On this auspicious occasion. I am happy to greet all of you, my countrymen at home and abroad, and convey to you my good wishes.

India has rightly been described as the largest democracy in the world. Democratic processes have taken firm and abiding root in our country. Our democracy is on the eve of yet another milestone in its progress. Soon we shall have elections to the Lok Sabha. A parliamentary democracy derives its strength and authority from the will of the people in whom resides the sovereign power to choose the government. Our people have



FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED
President of India

time and again shown their political maturity and our electoral machinery has earned a reputation for the observance of highest standards of impartiality and integrity. I appeal to all political parties to eschew bitterness and rancour in their election campaigns and help maintain an atmosphere of peace and calm in the country. Acts of violence and indiscipline are incompatible with the practice of democracy.

RAPID STRIDES

We enter the new year in a mood of hope and confidence. Thanks to the determined efforts of the Government and enthusiastic popular participation, the country has made rapid strides, in all spheres of national endeavour. There is now a very comfortable level of buffer stock of foodgrains.

There has been a sustained drive against the black money economy and smuggling and for fuller utilisation of industrial capacities, efficient procurement

(Contd. on page 7)

Words To Remember

[Excerpt from the speechess of the Prime Minister]

Addressing a Congress rally in Poona the Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi said she would welcome any government of the Opposition sincerely if it worked for the people and ran the administration efficiently. But that experience of coalitions in the past was discouraging. The power going into the hands of communal parties and groups with sectarian ideologies would be contrary to the interests of the nation.

The constituents of coalition governments in some States, spent much of their precious time on petty differences and did nothing for the people. If such a government came to power, there was no guarantee that it would function properly and the chances were that the national unity would be the first victim.

The situations arising from the disintegration of coalition governments were limited at that time to the States and the Centre was able to set things right. Should a similar situation arise at the Centre, it would prove to be of grave consequence to the nation.

She was firmly committed to democratic principles and had refrained from making any political arrests. However, this was taken as a sign of weakness by the Opposition parties, when, in fact she was in favour of the existence of a healthy Opposition.

There were certain "institutions" in the country, which were collecting funds at home

and abroad with the object of "saving democracy."

The forces abroad, which did not like India making progress, were equally vocal in making propaganda that democracy did not exist in India. These same forces, however, did not see that democracy was actually strangulated and bloodshed was the order of the day in some countries.

It is alleged that in the current drive for the welfare of the poor, the middle class people were being ignored. There was no such distinction. All were the dear children of "Bharat-Mata."

India had achieved some successes during the past one and half years, but those were not quite enough to make it stand on a firm footing. The stresses of bad economic period were still lingering and "we are standing on such an unstable base that a strong breeze would unsettle us". The country needed much more efforts to stand firmly on a solid ground.

This was possible only when people forgot differences and regional feelings and became united with a will to make a 'Bharat' of their making and aspirations.

Notwithstanding the efforts being made to better the lot of the poor masses, mistakes were committed. There were still areas in which the backward classes failed to receive social and economic justice.

However, the programme was there. All the difficulties of the people were not going to be removed in a day. It was a gigantic work. The one consolation was that "we have equally a gigantic desire to work for the programme".

THUS SPAKE
THE MAHATMA

I am content with the doing of the task in front of me. I do not worry about the why and wherefore of things. Reason helps us to see that we should not dabble in things we cannot fathom.

ASOKA SCENTED BETELNUT POWDER

Free India

SUNDAY Jan. 30, 1977

NEW ALLIANCE

An electoral alliance among Congress,, All-India Anna DMK and communist Party of India in Tamil Nadu seems to be almost certain. An understanding reached among these parties awaits Congress High command's approval, it is reported.

In the absence of elections for the Assembly simultaneuously, it is impossible for any party now to contest the Lok Sabha poll without some adjustments with other parties.

In Tamil Nadu especially despite the tall claims made by some leaders, the congress has not gained much strength. The local leadership has failed to build up the party though the opportunities provided by the High Command were many.

The problem can be understood better if one realises the vast areas to be covered by candidates. There are to be about 30,000 polling booths for the 39 Lok Sabha seats in the State, and it is important to have at least one election agent (somewhat familiar with polling procedures) in every booth. This aspect was looked after by the "legs," the Assembly candidates, when joint elections were held.

An ideal situation would have been to rope in those still left (of Kamaraj's followers) in Congress (O). But Mr. P. Ramachandran has chosen to form part of the non-communist Janata Party, which is itself seeking some understanding with CPM.

The DMK is threatening to contest all the seats, alone if necessary and with some alliance if possible.

If there are three-cornered contests, the results will be unpredictable. But still the proposed Congress—AIADMK-CPI alliance has a good chance. We hope the High Command will approve.

Crime: Result of Sociological Conditions

By P. PARAMAGURU IPS
Inspector General of Prisons

Criminal jurisprudence recognises the fact that in a large-majority of cases crime is the result of sociological conditions and environmental stresses operative on the individual. No person is a born criminal. Criminal behaviour is indicative of the individual's mal-adjustment resulting from the conditions prevalent within or without him.

How can we, in all fairness, blame a youngster if he goes astray, when we do not provide him with basic necessities like satisfactory food, shelter and opportunities for healthy growth. We seek to punish a child for petty theft, but we do not seek to punish ourselves for not providing the child with optimum conditions for healthy living. We must further appreciate the fact that nothing is farther from truth than the statement, "once a criminal always a criminal". In fact most of us, if not all of us, are guilty of deviant behaviour at some stage or other in our lives. Did not the sage Valmiki himself lead a life of crime before he wrote the Ramayana? Did not the saint Arunagirinathar lead a debaucherous life before he wrote the Thirupugal? It would have been indeed a great loss to humanity if both Valmiki and Arunagirinathar had been incarcerated in prison. It, therefore, becomes imperative that the scheme for bringing the offender back to normal social life must take into account his antecedents, background and circumstances. Probation draws its strength from this very realisation that the sentence should fit the offender and not merely the offence.

Probation as a non-institutional mode of crime treatment has emerged as one of the most progressive features of the modern correctional system. The probation approach is based on the realisation that crime as a social phenomenon can be largely tackled in the community

P. PARAMAGURU IPS

itself, that many offenders can be salvaged and rehabilitated in society through a systematic programme of individualised help, guidance and supervision, and that subjecting offenders to the baneful and deleterious influences of incarceration in a routine mechanical way is neither in the interest of society nor of the offenders concerned. Probation treatment is both more effective and more economical in dealing with juvenile delinquents and youthful offenders, for whom there is no substitute for normal family life during the period of their growth and development. The system has provided an effective alternative to imprisonment, especially to short-term sentences which have no therapeutic or correctional value. Probation treatment besides saving juvenile delinquent youthful offenders from being contaminated or stigmatised by imprisonment, appropriately facilitates them to reform them-

(Contd. on page 7)

ATTACKING THE RAT

There are ten times as many rats as humans in some countries of South-East Asia, according to scientists' estimates. They are known to carry diseases which can spread to humans. The more dangerous of these are: plague, murine and scrub typhus, leptospirosis and several strains of salmonella.

The main reasons for the growth of the rodent population and the dangers of the spread of disease by rats lie in rapid urbanization and general failure to realize the graveness of the danger to human health.

Rats are voracious eaters of food so direly needed by humans. They consume an estimated 33 million tons of food a year and eat up or spoil 20% of the crops, even before the harvest. One single rat alone, left free to roam a warehouse for one year, will eat about 27 pounds of food and deposit 25,000 droppings to spoil much more. Often the amount of food rats eat and spoil makes the difference between bare adequacy and famine.

PROLIFIC BREEDERS

Rats are prolific breeders too. They average three to six litters a year and produce about ten young to each litter. If all the offspring were to survive, one pair of rats could, on the basis of three litters a year, theoretically, produce 20 million descendants within three years. Fortunately, however, not all the offspring would survive owing to natural pressures and man's unceasing attack.

Anything that will keep down rats will serve a double purpose: it will protect man against disease and reduce the constant pillage of man's food thus increasing the amount available for humans to eat.

The World Health Organization established a Rodent Control Demonstration Unit in Rangoon, Burma, in August 1975, which has been studying the implications to urban populations Western Pacific regions.

STUDY RESULTS

In cooperation with the National Health Laboratory of Burma, the Rodent Control Demonstration Unit has found indications of the presence of plague, brucelosis and leptospirosis among rodents. Several strains of salmonella have been isolated from the rats captured for investigation. There is evidence also of the presence of murine typhus.

The studies at the Rodent Control Demonstration Unit have revealed that control of large populations of rats by rodenticides can only be partially successful. Efforts to kill the rat will have to be combined with the use of insecticides effective against the rat flea which is the main vector responsible for transmission and spread of bubonic plague. Ultimately, however, improvements in community sanitation are necessary to reduce the rat populations.

While the Rodent Control Demonstration Unit continues its work to determine the impact of rodents upon human health and to develop effective and economical methods of rat control, WHO is making plans to use the facilities at the Unit for training workers engaged in similar activities in other countries of South-East Asia and the Western Pacific.

Planning For Weaker Sections

By SANKAR GHOSE
Union Minister Of State For Planning

Mahatma Gandhi used to say that the villages constituted the heart of India. Indeed, the fate of the poor in the villages will ultimately determine the destiny of the nation. It is only when the creative energies of the rural masses are released and when the condition of the rural poor is improved that the country can go forward. A comprehensive strategy for the improvement of the lot of the rural poor is, therefore, a must.

The lowest strata of the rural population are the small and marginal farmers and agricultural labourers. In fact, according to the agricultural census about 50 per cent of the agricultural holdings in India are marginal being below 1 hectare in size and about 19 per cent are small holdings between 1 to 2 hectares in size. But these holdings together account for only 21 per cent of the total operated area. Accordingly, one of the major objectives of the Fifth Plan is to improve the economic condition of this strata of the rural population. For achieving this objective the main thrust has necessarily to be in the agricultural and allied sectors.

TWO TYPES OF PROBLEMS

The small and marginal farmers are faced with certain problems which are either not faced at all by the large famers or are faced by them in a much lesser degree. These problems are of two major types; firstly, the lack of adequate capital resources for effecting agricultural improvement and modernization as also the lack of sufficient reserves to tide over output fluctuations, and secondly, institutional limitations, such as, illiteracy, rural indebtedness and weaker political influence. To deal with these problems certain programmes have been adopted.

The small Farmers' Development Agencies (SFDA) and Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers (MFAL) programmes were initiated for evolving an integrated development strategy for the small and marginal farmers. In the Fifth Plan the approach is to combine the SFDA and MFAL programmes into a single programme with emphasis on small and marginal farmers' concentrations in irrigated, rainfed and dry farming areas.

Though the emphasis under the combined programme will be on crop husbandry for the small and marginal farmers, yet animal husbandry schemes relating to subsidized distribution of milch cattle, poultry, sheep rearing and pig production schemes are also included.

The programmes will serve as nuclei of growth for the small and marginal farmers. Under these programmes, the poor peasants and agricultural labourers are being supplied with credit, inputs and technology. During the Fifth Plan we propose to spend Rs. 174.45 crores in the Central Sector for these programmes.

COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY

A comprehensive national strategy for the development of the small and marginal farmers in particular and the weaker sections in general has to be pursued. The Twenty-Point Programme announced by Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi is an important part of the strategy for ameliorating the condition of the weaker sections. Land reforms, minimum wages to agricultural labourers, house sites for the rural poor, abolition of bonded labour, liquidation of rural indebtedness and schemes for the backward sections of the community are some of the items of this programme. Indeed they are also some of the main components of the development strategy for the weaker sections as formulated in the Fifth Plan.

Centuries of colonial rule fostered and preserved feudal relations of production in the agrarian sector. The result has been concentration of landed property in a few hands. Such concentration of landed property precludes the access of smaller peasants to credit and inputs. In such a situation the entire agricultural economy is dominated by a small minority that is interested more in feudal power than in increased productivity. The only way out of this situation is land reforms.

It is obvious that equitable land distribution will bring about a qualitative change in the rural economy. The work relating to allotment of surplus land to the landless was taken up in terms of the Twenty-Point Programme and about 10 lakh acres were allotted. The number of beneficiaries about 6 lakhs, large number of whom belong to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

The States in which the problem of rural indebtedness exists have imposed moratorium on the recovery of debts due to private money-lenders from landless labourers, marginal and small farmers and rural artisans. Many States have also liquidated such debts. Alternative sources of credit through commercial banks, cooperatives and the newly set up rural banks are being provided but much more remains to be done in this direction.

The drought prone areas programme, which covers mainly weaker sections of the population, was drawn up as a rural works programme in the Fourth Plan. This programme has been changed into an intergrated area development programme during the Fifth Plan with emphasis on development and management of irrigation resources, soil and moisture conservation, changes in agronomic practices and the development of small and marginal farmers. Need-based field programmes have been taken up in most of the drought prone areas on the basis of detailed project reports. During the Fifth Plan it is proposed to spend Rs. 181.50 crores in the Central sector for the drought prone areas programme undertaken in 72 districts in the country.

The command area development authorities are also canalising assistance and expertise to the farmers including the small and marginal farmers. On an average 35% of the land in the command area are owned by small farmers whose holdings do not exceed 2 hectares and about 5 million such farmers will benefit from the projects in the command areas.

TRIBAL AREAS

Development of tribal areas, which are mostly underdeveloped and in rural areas, is another important objective of the Fifth Plan. Sub-plans are being prepared for removing the disparities between these areas and the more developed parts. During the Fifth Plan we propose to spend Rs. 190 crores for the execution of integrated area development tribal plans. Further, we propose to spend another sum of Rs. 170 crores during the Fifth Plan for the development of hill areas which are also economically backward.

The minimum needs programme is another key investment for helping the weaker sections and for the redistribution of incomes. For this programme during the Fifth Plan we intend to spend about Rs. 263.6 crores. The aim of this programme is to ensure that the level of consumption of the weaker sections is raised and that there is a greater flow of social benefits to them.

For reviving the rural economy a scheme for the revitalization and development of the Handloom industry has been undertaken. 17 intensive development projects and 19 export oriented projects have been sanctioned.

In order to help the weaker sections we are laying considerable emphasis on the development of the small scale sector. Small industries can function efficiently in the sectors allied to agriculture. Many of the agricultural equipments can be manufactured by labour intensive techniques on a small scale. Further, the existence of a viable small scale sector is a guarantee against the imbalances and irrationalities that develop through concentration of economic power. Indeed, multiple foci of economic power are always conductive to the efficiency of the economic apparatus and the functioning of our democratic political institutions. Development of small scale and cottage industries is, therefore, an important component of the national strategy for improving the lot of the weaker sections particularly in the rural areas.

Sensitive

The widow of a multimillionaire British newspaper magnate, stints nothing for her pet dogs. She recently chartered a 227-seat jet airliner to send miniature pinscher Pax and ferrier Chung across the Atlantic. The aviation company lost nothing by the deal and the two canines travelled in comfort. A company spokesman quoted her as saying that her pets were too sensitive...to fly in company with so many strangers.

Their Consolation

The owners of a Japanese pharmaceutical company have been charged with fraud. They have made a tidy sum manufacturing and selling a highly expensive, much advertised medicine for intestinal diseases. A checkup revealed that it was merely a mixture of starch and sugar, and had no curative properties whatsoever. The buyers of this medicine had the consolation to know that they were in a much better position than the people who had come to Tokyo from all parts of the country to demonstrate and demand punishment for the manufacturers of patent medicines which had harmed their health.

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Eminent Artistes Honoured

The Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram honoured twenty artistes who proved their worth in their respective fields like music, dance, drama etc at a special function got up at Rajaji Hall, Madras, on January 25.

The awards and medallions were presented to the artistes by Mr. V. Karthikeyan, Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu. He also presented cash awards (Rs. 1000/- each) to ten artistes who were conferred the title of Kalaimamani in earlier years. He also unveiled the portraits of sixteen eminent scholars and artistes, who are no more with us, in recognition of their services to art and culture.

Rasika Ranjini Sabha, Mylapore, Madras was adjudged the best Sabha and was presented with a shield. Mr K. V. Srinivasan, President of the Sabha, received the shield.

Mr. Justice P. R. Gokulakrishnan, Chairman of the Manram, welcomed the gathering.

Mr. S. D. Sundaram, Secretary, outlined the achievements of the Manram in his report presented on the occasion.

Mr. Gokulakrishnan and Mr. Sundaram referred to the plight of the Manram in not having its own auditorium and office building.

Now the Manram is housed in a rented building on the banks of river Adyar and their performances are mainly conducted at the University Centenary auditorium.

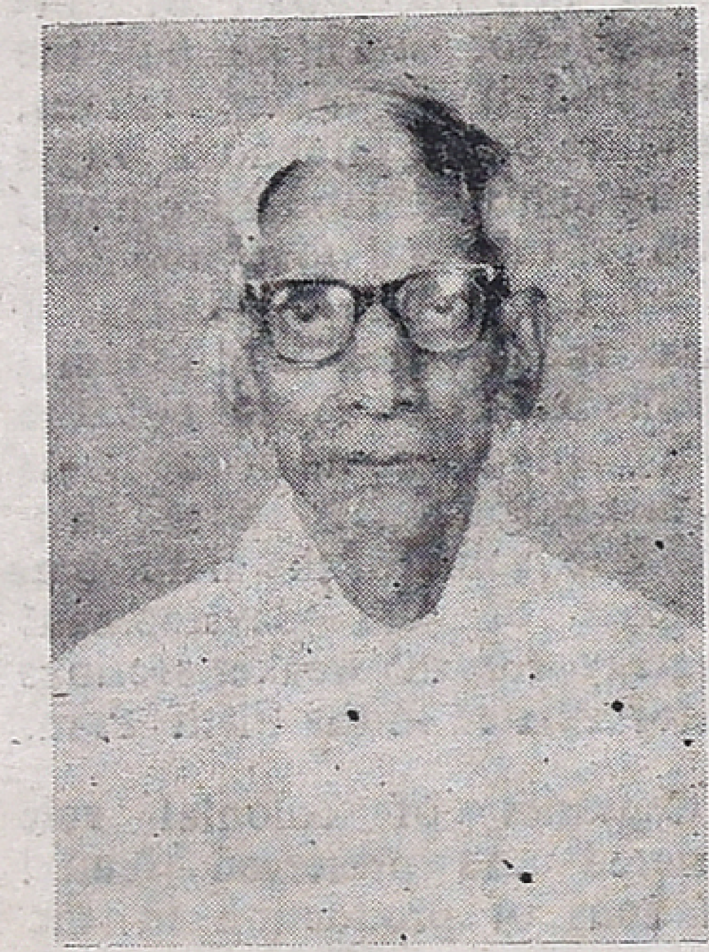
The Manram will be in a position to arrange more performances and also earn funds for its functioning if it has its own theatre.

The portraits of the following were unveiled: Dr. U. V. Swaminatha Iyer (Tamil Literature), Bharathiar (Poet), Ariyakudi Ramanuja Aiyangar (Music), Veerasami Pillai (Nadaswaram), Papanasam Sivan (Lyrist), Chittor Subramania Pillai (Music), Kattumannarkoil Muthukumara Pillai (Dance Master), T. S. Baliah (Cine actor), V. Nagaiah (Cine actor), Rajah Sando (Film director-actor), K. Subramanyam (Film director), P. S. Chettiar (Editor), Ilangovan (Screen playwrite), Vazhiyur Pattaga Sundaram Pillai (Music) Madurai Isakkimuthu Vathiar (drama lyrist) and Sabapathy Nattuvanar (dance master).

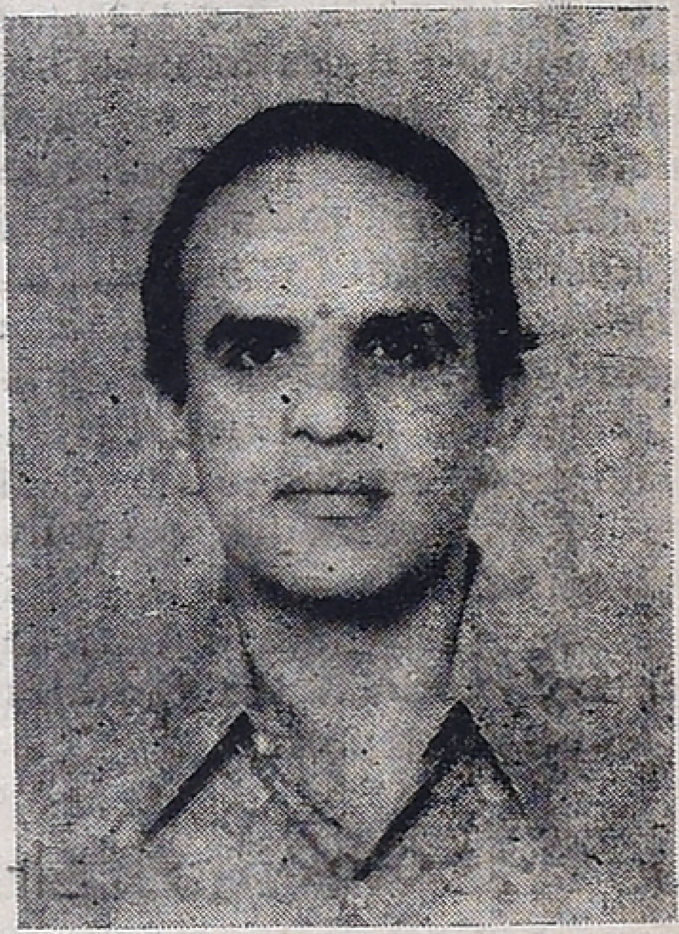
We are publishing here the pictures of the artistes who were honoured with the title 'Kalaimamani' this year.

Selvi RADHA and Selvi JAYALAKSHMI—Music.

Thiru V. SETHURAMIAH—violinist.



Maha Vidwan, Thiru M.V. VENUGOPAL PILLAI — Tamil Literature and the Tamil musical Works.



Umayalpuram Thiru K. SIVARAMAN, B.A.B.L.,—mridangist

FUN AND LAUGHTER

FLATTERY

"This crime," said the judge, summing up, "was carried out in an adroit and skillful manner."

Blushing, the prisoner interrupted: "Now, my lord, no flattery, please."

* * *

A teacher had tried hard to impress the virtue of honesty on her children, and at examination time made them give a pledge that they had neither given nor received help.

One girl handed in her paper with this pledge on it: "I haven't received no help on this exam, and God knows I couldn't give any."

ACHIEVEMENT

"Where is the population of England most dense?" was another question.

"Please teacher, above the ears," said one smart lad.

It was this same boy who was asked during the history lesson what was the greatest achievement of the Romans.

His reply was "Speaking Latin."

And when they asked him to name three things containing milk he answered "Butter and two cows."

* * *

One question on the history paper was: "What famous man do you associate with Khartoum?"

One boy had written: "Walt Disney."

* * *

"All extremely intelligent men are conceited."

He shurgged gracefully. "Oh, I don't know; I'm not."

ONE MORE CHANCE

Mr. Smith staggered in, wild-eyed. "I shall have to sack that chauffeur of mine," he gasped. "That's three times this week he's nearly killed me."

"Oh, my dear," shoothed his wife. "Just give him one more chance."

* * *

"My husband's changed since our marriage. He eats out of my hand now."

"Well, that certainly saves a lot of washing up."

* * *

"John is marrying again, I hear."

"Yes, and from all accounts his second wife will make rather a lively stepmother for the children."

"A sort of watch-your-step-mother, I suppose."

* * *

"What are you taking at the university?"

"Medicine."

"Feeling better?"

HARD TO DECIDE

Interviewer: "What ten books would you choose if you were cast on a desert island?"

Conceited Author: "It's hard to decide. I've written over thirty, you know."

x x x

A weary, sweating policeman emerged from an inner room of the station.

"Well, did you give that thug the third degree?" asked the captain.

"Yes, six of us kept screaming and shouting and bedgering him with questions for over four hours,' was the tired reply.

"And what did you get out of him?" asked the captain eagerly.

"Nothing" said the policeman disgustedly.' All he did was doze off and from time to time murmur: Yes dear, You 're right; dear."

* * *

"All right back there?" called the conductor from the front end of the bus.

"Just a minute—wait till I get my clothes on!" came a feminine voice. The passengers craned their necks expectantly.

A girl got on with a big parcel of laundry.

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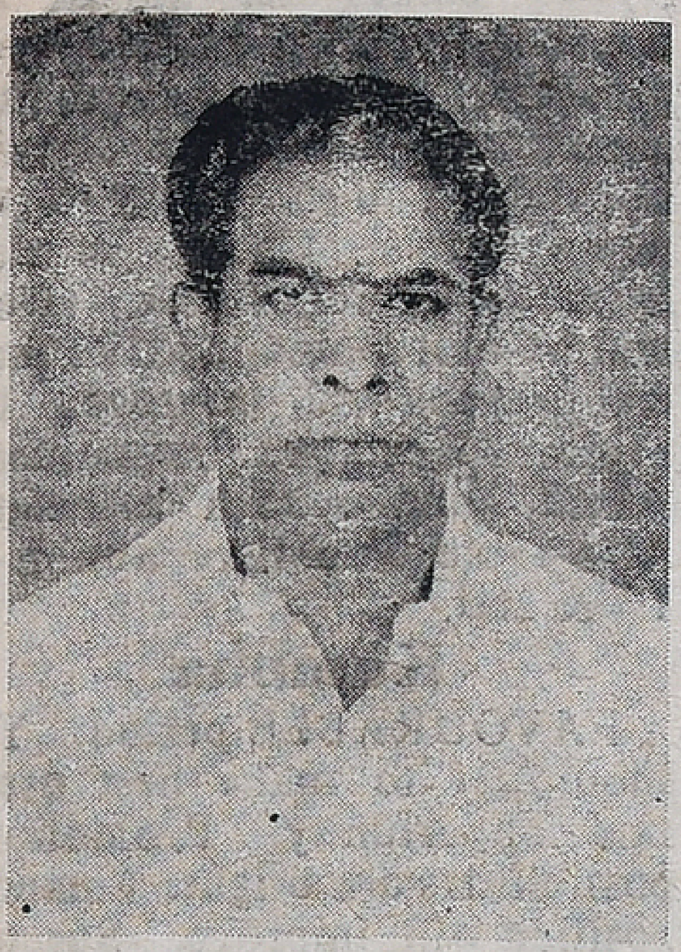
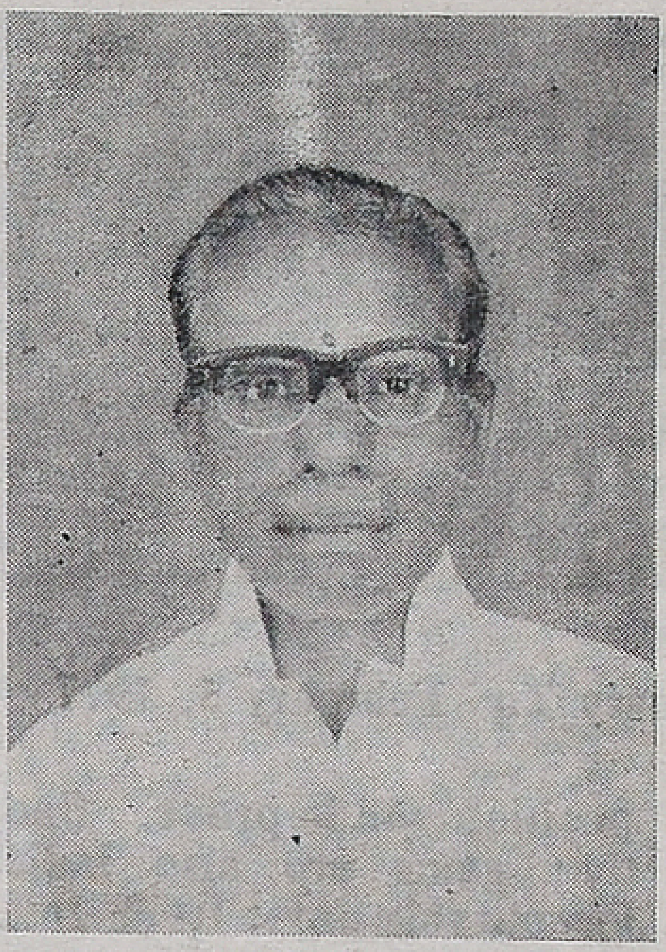
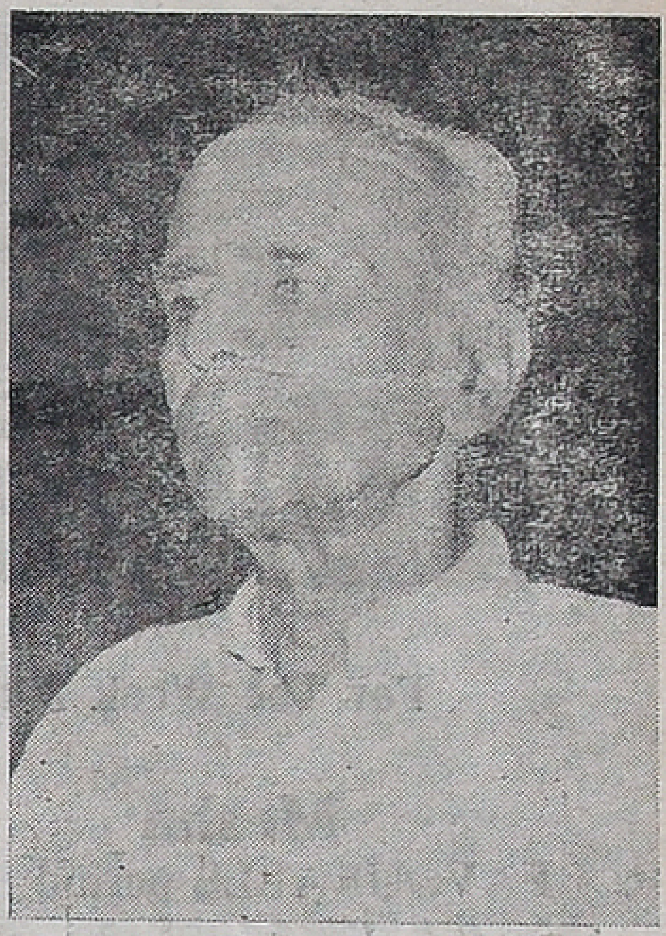


Thiru T S. RAJARATHINAM PILLAI—Nadaswara Vidwan.

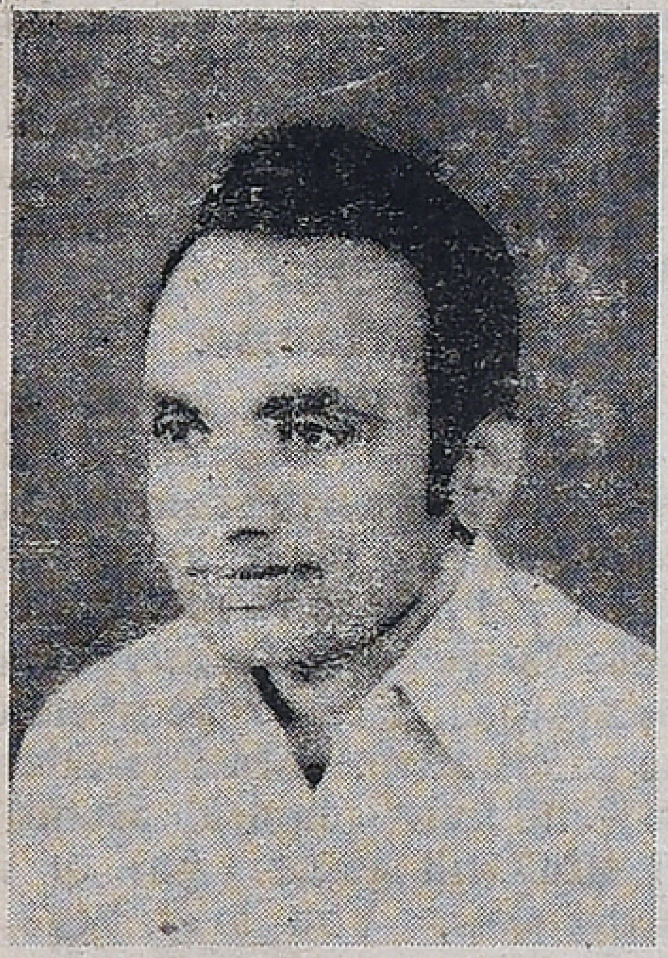
Selvi HEMAMALINI—Bharatha Natyam artiste.



Bala Kavi Thiru VENKATACHALAN—lyrist.

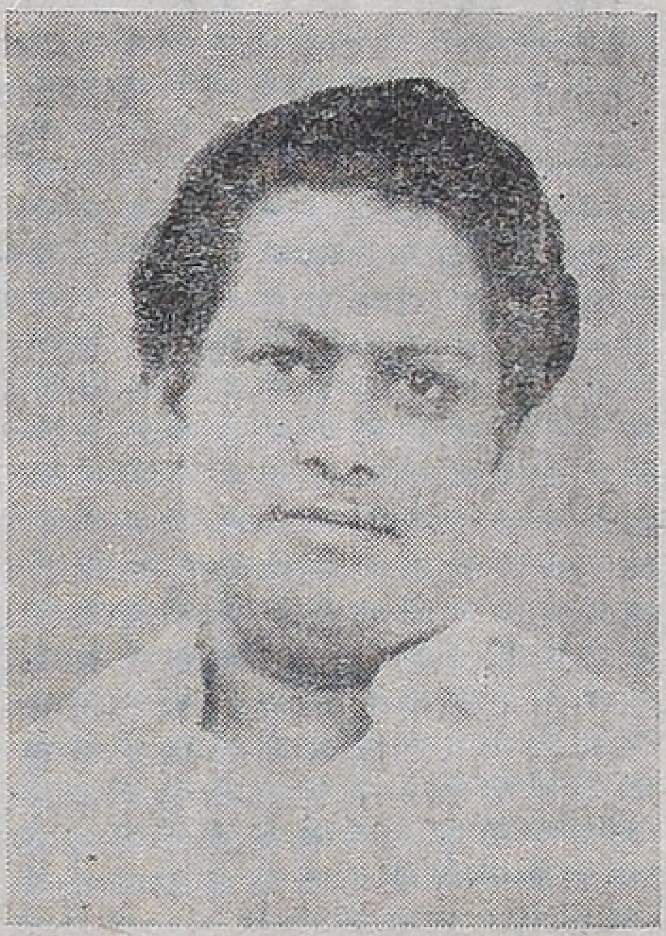


Thiru SUBBUDU—amateur actor and producer.



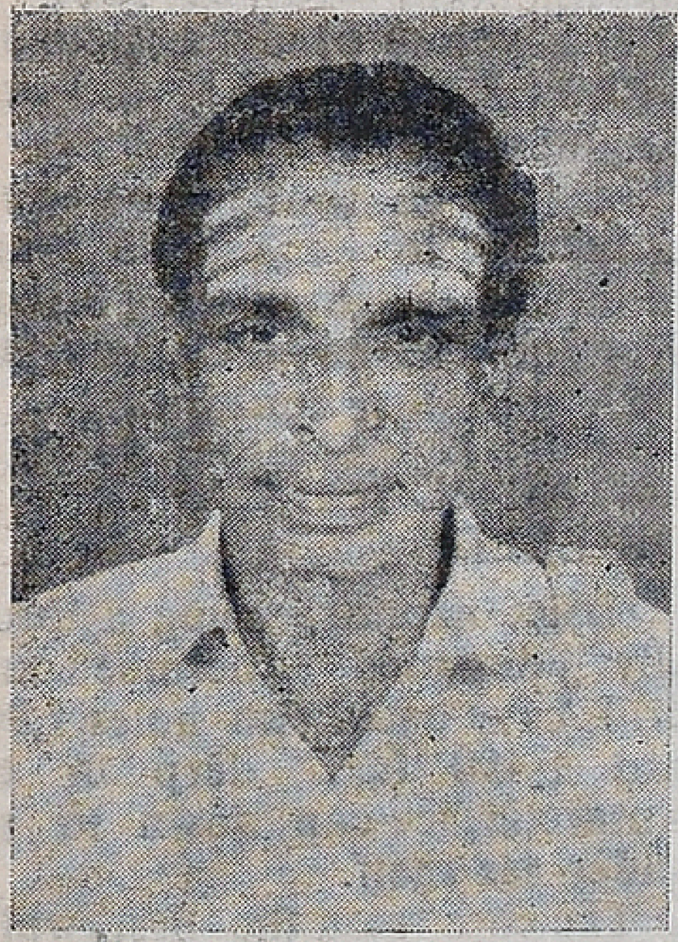
Valayapatti Thiru A.R. SUBRAMANIAM—Thavil Vidvan.

Thiru SIVAKUMAR — cine actor.



Thiru NARASIMHA BHARATHI—Drama actor.

Thiru M. M. MARIAPPA —actor in Musical plays.

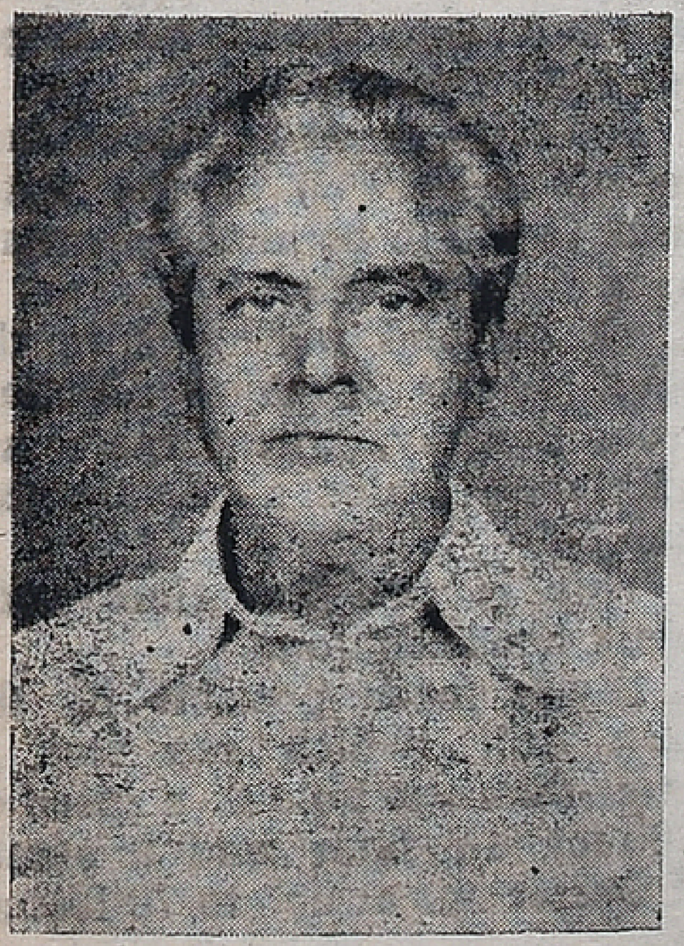


Thevaram Thiru V. SOMASUNDARAM—divine music.

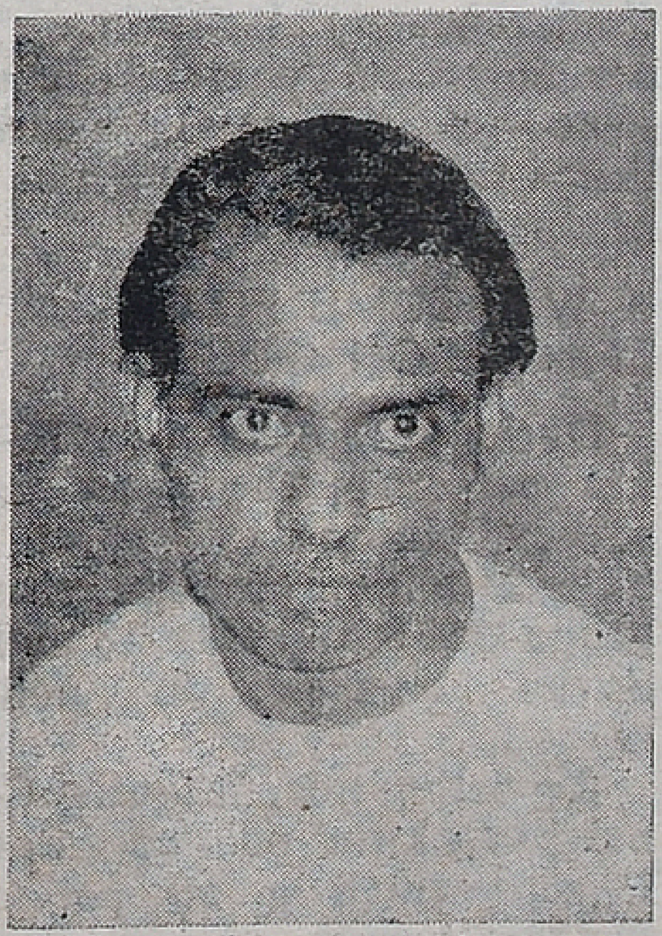
Selvi SUJATHA—film actress.

Thirumathi TAMBARAM LALITHA—drama actress.

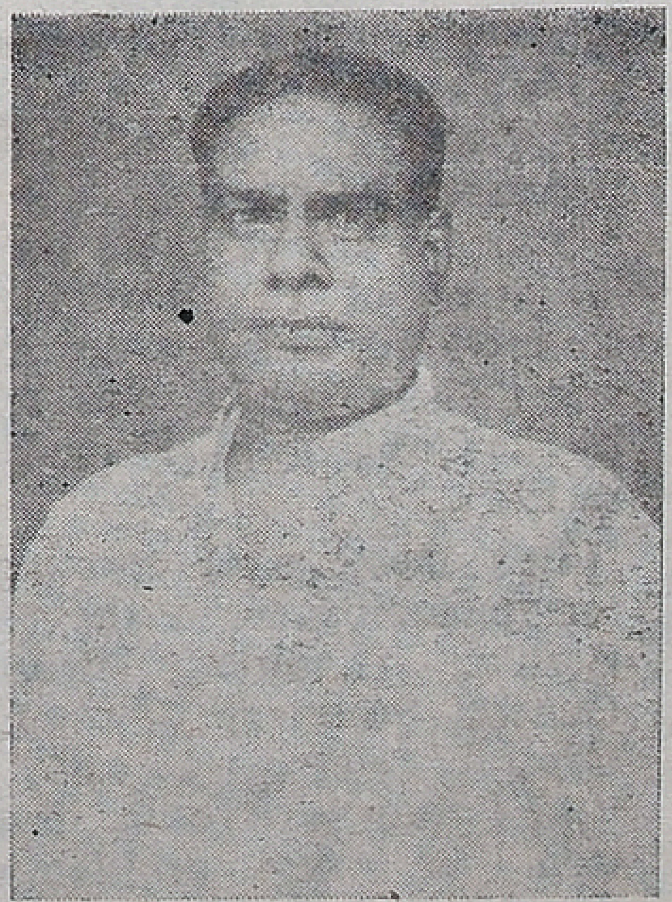
Thirumathi S. S. JANAKI —actress in musical plays.



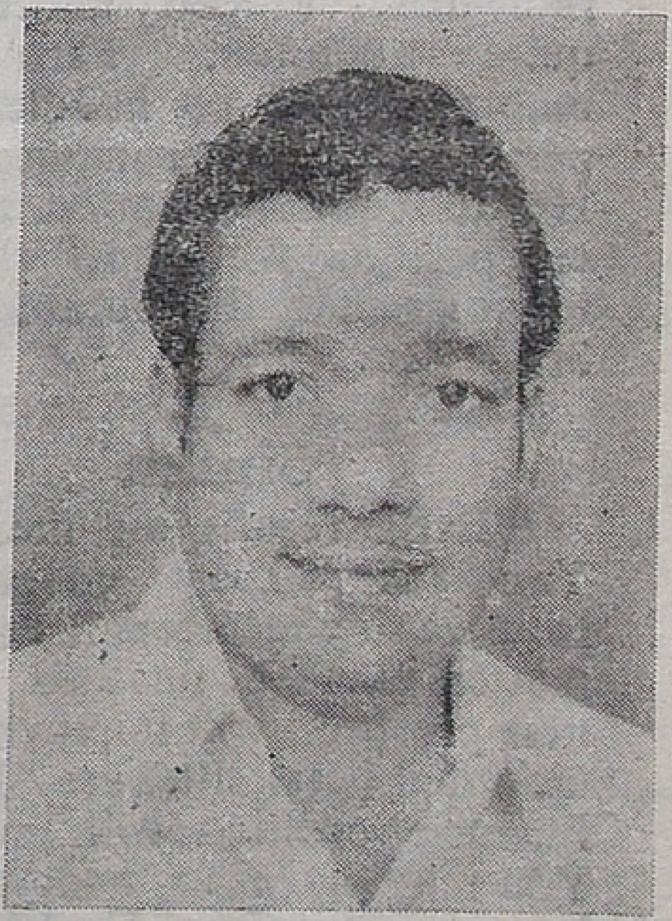
Kumbakonam Thiru T.S SHANMUGASUNDARAM PILLAI—Bharatha Natyam.



Thiru Komal SWAMINATHAN—playwrite.



Thiru T. N. SIVATHANU —drama produoer.



Thiru KULADEIVAM RAJAGOPAL—'Villupattu' artist.

For The Week 30th, January To February 5, 1977

Mesha

FAVOURABLE period. You should proceed further, without any hesitation to implement your plans. You will be able to overcome the minor difficulties this week. You can expect co-operation from your family members. Financial position will improve. Partnership matters could be finalised. Promotional possibilites are bright. But you should avoid arguments with superiors. Also avoid speculative investments. Favourable days: 3rd & 4th.

Rishaba

MIXED results are indicated. You should wait for some more time to solve the major problems. Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments. Health will show signs of improvement. You should be prepared for significant changes in business and profession in the near future. Property matters could be finalised. You should be cautious in dealing with strangers. Favourable days: 30th & 31st.

Mithuna

YOU should wait for some more time to implement your programme. You should avoid legal complications: Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments. You should be cautious in dealing with superiors. You can expect improvement in business conditions shortly. Family matters require attention. Health requires attention. Property matters should be handled properly to avoid complications later. Favourable days: 1st & 2nd.

Kataka

YOU should wait for some more time to solve your major problems. Unsettled conditions will continue for some more time. Change of place is also indicated. Property matters require attention. Partnership matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. Health requires attention. Financial position will show signs of improvement. Favourable dayst 3rd & 4th.

Simha

MIXED results are indicated. You can expect cooperation from family members. Property matters could be finalised. Business prospects will improve. Promotional possibilites are bright. Financial position will improve. You may have to undertake a journey shortly. Health will show signs of improvement. Matters relating to children could be finalised Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. Favourable days: 1st & 2nd.

Kanya

FAVOURABLE period to implement your plans. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. Matters relating to children could be finalised. Partnership matters could be finalised favourably. Business prospects are bright. You should be cautious in dealing with property matters to avoid legal complications. Family members will be cooperative. Favourable days: 30th & 31st.

Thula

MIXED results are indicated. You should wait for some more time to implement your programme. Property matters could be finalised. Partnership matters could be finalised favourably. Health requires attention. You should be cautious in dealing with strangers. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. Metters relating to children requires attention. Favourable days: 1st& 2nd.

Vrischika

MIXED results are indicated. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. Family matters require attention. Matters relating to children should be handled properly to avoid complications. You should be cautious in dealing with strangers. Partnership matters could be finalised. Health will show signs of improvement. Favourable days: 3rd & 4th.

Dhanus

FAVOURABLE period. You should make best use of this opportunity to improve your prospects. Property matters could be finalised. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. Business prospects will improve. Health will show signs of improvement. Matters relating to children could be finalised. You are passing through one of the best periods and you should try to solve some of your problems. You should be prepared for unexpected developments on 30th & 31st.

Makara

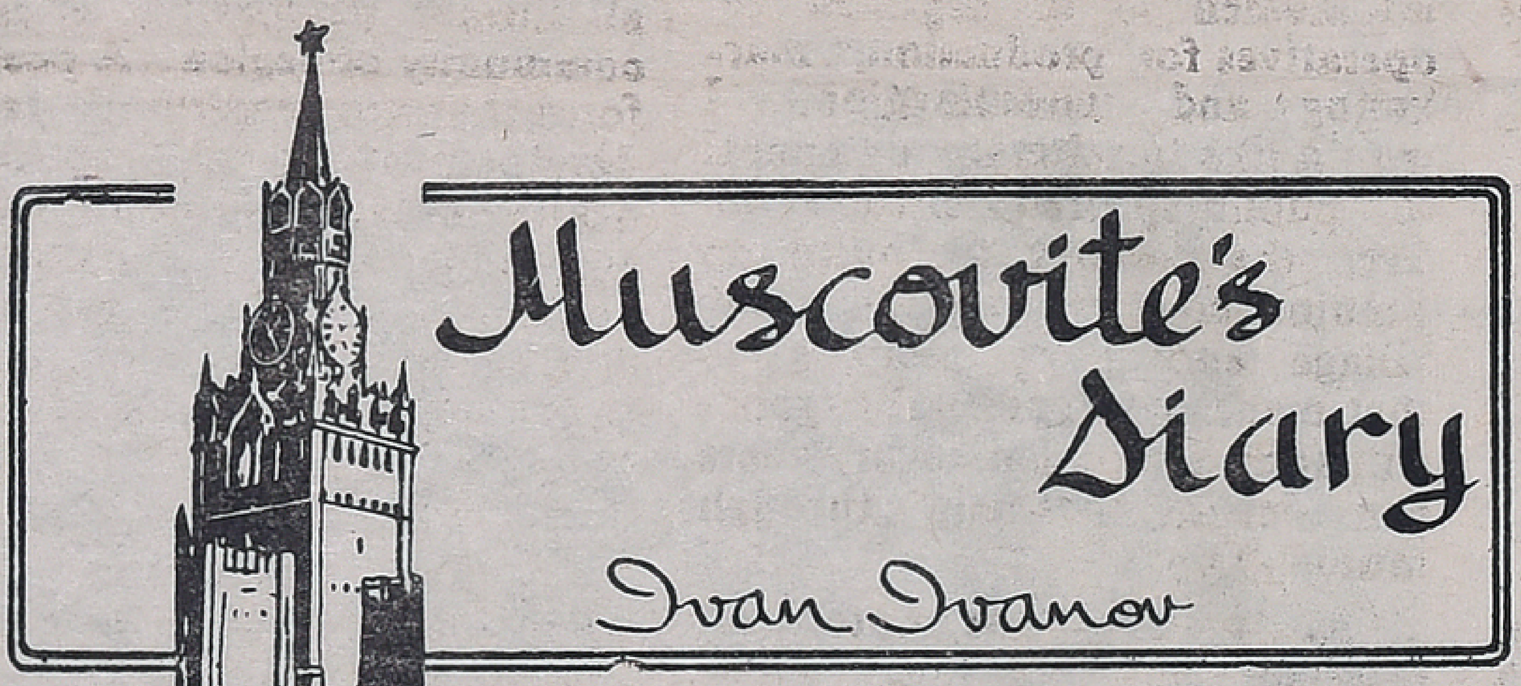
YOU are passing through one of the best periods. You should try to make best use of this opportunity to improve your prospects. Property matters should be finalised as early as possible. You should try to start new ventures. Change of place is indicated for some. Health will be well maintained. Financial position will improve. But avoid speculative investments. Avoid friction with associates. Also avoid impulsive action on 1st & 2nd.

Kumbha

FAVOURABLE period. You should try to make best use of this opportunity. Promotional possibilities are bright. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. Matters relating to brothers and sisters could be finalised. Health will be well maintained. Parnter-ship matters could be finalised. You should be prepared for significant changes in the near future. You should be prepared for unexpected developments on 3rd & 4th.

Meena

FAVOURABLE period continues for some more time. You should try to solve some of your problems as early as possible. Financial position will improve. Speculative investments should be avoided. Family members will be cooperative. Matters relating to children require attention. Health will show signs of improvement. You may have to undertake a journey shortly. Favourable days: 1st & 2nd.



THE WORLD FORUM OF PEACE FORCES

The World Forum of Peace Forces was held here from 14th to 16th January, 1977.

Envoys of all continents, political parties and public movements from over 120 States and also representatives of more than 70 international organisations met in the Conference Hall of the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance.

The Forum was held on the initiative of the International Council for Follow-up Action and Liaison, which was set up by the Congress of Peace Forces in 1973.

In a message of greetings to the participants in the World Forum, Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee said, that "the Forum is to focus its attention on the problems of deepening and further developing the relaxation of international tension. The new political climate, now developing in the present-day world, facilitates the achievement of these aims. The recent years have seen successes in liquidating military conflicts in different areas of the world. More favourable conditions have been created for strengthening peace as a result of the successful conclusion of the European Conference in Helsinki. The principles of peaceful coexistence are increasingly asserting themselves in the practice of international relations."

A WELCOME FOR 25 MILLION GUESTS

During the present (1976-80) five-year plan, the Soviet travel agency, Intourist, expects to bring 25 million foreign visitors to the USSR and take 18 million Soviet citizens on holiday abroad.

Reporting this, Intourist Chief Sergei Nikitin pointed out that it represented a 50 per cent increase over the past five years.

Nikitin also forecasts a lively growth in town twinning and other such contacts.

In recent years visits had been greatly facilitated, he said, by inter-governmental agreements with France, Finland, Italy and Belgium.

Sections on tourism had been included in economic and cultural agreements with Britain, Western Germany, Canada, the USA and other countries.

ANTARTIC ICE CAP DRILLED

Soviet experts, using a specially designed thermoelectric drill, have bored two holes 1,900 and 1,490 feet deep in the Antarctic ice-cap down to the under-sea shelf.

The core from the first, which s in the area of Novolagarev Research Station, 22 miles inland, was found, when analysed in Leningrad, to contain diatoms (single cell micro-organisms) which had remained unchanged for 10,000 years.

The saltness and temperature (—1.5 to—1.9°C) of the water were found to be much the same as in the open sea.

The second boring is in the shelf glacier 30 miles off-shore from Lazarev, where there are 130 feet of water under the ice-cap.

This is the first time such work has been done.

It was made possible by the new drill, which can sink a large-diameter hole at a speed of 20 feet an hour and a small-diameter one at up to 70 feet an hour.

It is easily transportable and can, if necessary, operate from a helicopter instead of the ground.

England Retains Rubber

The interest among the cricket lovers in the current India—MCC series subsided when Indian batsmen tambled down against the MCC bowlers to give them the victory on a platter at Chepauk MAC stadium, Madras. MCC while the winning the match also won the series to retain the Rubber.

The highlights of the dull and drabbing third test match were the controversy over the 'guaze' used by Lever and Bedi takig his 200th test wicket.

The English batsmen preferred to stay as long as possible at the crease than to score freely and build a big total. Playing the whole day on January 14, they scored only 171 runs for the loss of 5 wickets. Again they added only 91 runs before they were all out just an hour before tea on the second day.

India replied with a meagre score of 164 runs in the first innings. The Indian batsmen not on y failed to face the pace-men but also the spinner Underwood. They fell like nine pins, except for Patel who showed some resistance.

England scored 185 runs for 9 wickets in the second innings and declared the innings closed leaving India to score 284 runs in 442 minutes of play to win the match.

But Indian batsmen failed miserably again. They were all out for a paltry total of 83 runs about an hour before the lunch interval on the fifth day of the match.

So far England has proved a better side in all the departments of the game. Our fielding and batting were at the lowest ebb. Anoth r factor that was against our own side was the prepared pitches. Many a leading cricket commentators like A. F. S. Talyarkhan have been time and again criticising the way test pitches are prepared.

Fortunatel, the controversy over the 'vaseline guaze' has been closed.

With 3-0 win it is hoped that the MCC team will atleast play entertaining and dynamic game at Bangalore and Bombay.

The Tamil Nadu Cricket Association had made the best of arrangements for the players as well as the spectators.

From page 1

President's Call

of foodgrains and successful export promotion.

The rate of growth of indus trial production, during the year, has been about 10 per cent | the highest in any single year recorded so far. What is even more gratifying is that the increase has been appreciable in vital industries like power generation, coal, steel, fertilizers, newsprint, cement and aluminium.

The performance of public sector enterprises has been particularly remarkable. All these have contributed to containing the inflationary pressures. In a world in which high rates of in flation have been almost universal, our countrymen can congratulate themselves on this achievement.

The c untry has moreover, made headway in a field which was previously the preserve of the more developed industrial nations. Our consultancy firms, both in the public and the private sectors, have proved their worth with the result that not only countries of West Asia. South East Asia and Latin America but also some in Europe are entrusting them with responsibilities for design, engineering and erection supervision of steel, heavy electricals and such other plants, in the face of stiff competition from the world's leading firms. I am sure. India's technological maturity will pave the way for ever increasing co-operation between us and other developing countries.

Our successes should not however make us complacent and blind us to our short-comings. The recent spurt in prices of edible oil, raw cotton and sugar, which is not so much due to shortages of these commodities but mainly to speculative activity, emphasises the need for setting up effective co-operatives and for vigilance to curb anti-social activities. The scope of the public distribution system has to be widened considerably to include all essential com modities of mass consumption. We must also build buffer stocks of many commodities besides cereals so that we are able to control the price line. We know, from experience, that the most effective method of checking the activities of anti-social middlemen is to organise co-operatives for production, marketing and consumption. I would like to reiterate my appeal to public-spirited citizens all over the country to build up genuine co-operatives, in every village and every mohalla, so that men and women of goodwill and dedication everywhere can ensure self-help through mutual help.

Our country has opted for planned development. The essence of planning is the conscious directioning of resources through carefully thought out programmes. I believe the time has come to review our planning and make it more and more rooted in the local resources, for that is the only way to raise the standard of living of the people, especially the privilessleged sections of the society. Implementation of such plans calls for increased mobilisation of secources both human and material. This will require ruthless cutting down of conspicuous consumption and extravagant expenditure. The ideals of simplicity and austerity, to which we always pay lip sympathy, must become a way of life with us.

It is a pity that our richer classes are blindly copying the life style of the affluent societies of the West and the industrial structure is largely oriened to meeting the insatiable needs of this small minority. This untenable concept must change and the industry must be made to produce articles of mass consumption at reasonable prices. Growth equity and selfreliance, which are the cherished goals of our planning process, are capable of achievement when there is not only a sense of involvement and dedication on the part of all citizens, but also that equal opportunities for all are ensured. I am confident that these will be forthcoming in an ample measure to take our country forward in its quest for a just and equitable society.

It is the historic responsibility of the present generation to inspire a sense of security and self-confidence in the minds of all citizens irrespective of caste, community or region. A positive force that can contribute to our development is the spirit of healthy nationalism which refuses encouragement to fissiparous tendencies. India must live before India can grow and successfully tackle the immense problems of poverty, ignorance, ill-health that face it at present.

National integration is as basic to its survival as it is for its development. We must transcend the divisive forces of casteism, communalism, linguism and regionalism and forge not merely political unity but the unity of minds and hearts of all our peoples. In spite of vast size and immense diversity, India has maintained through the ages the concept of unity and identity and has tried to blend, out of many cultural elements, a rich and harmonious national ethos. I appeal to all our people to uphold and foster this great tradition and make India prosperous and happy.

Friends, I have an abiding faith in the great destiny that awaits our Motherland. The innate goodness of our people and their capacity to face challenges from within and without have too many tests and have emerged with added strength. We have abundant human and material resources. Let us, on this day, resolve through consent and co-operation to build in this ancient land of ours a new social order free from rancour and exploitation and friendly to all mankind. "Jai Hind."

From page 2

selves within the mainstream of social life.

Probation implies a maximum utilisation of community resources for the welfare and rehabilitation of offenders on the basis of their individual needs and correctional requirements. A systematic programme of treatment has to be planned and followed up in keeping with the personality traits and environmental situations of the offenders. Besides ensuring that the conditions governing the release on probation are strictly adhered to, every effort has to be made by the Probation Officers to help the Probationers to help themselves. This process requires an effective coordination of and collaboration with various social welfare services rendered by official and non-official agencies.

This in-service training course conducted by the Madras School of Social Work is just to refresh you of your duties and responsibilities and to guide you how best to plan a systematic programme of treatment for probationers and make this probation system a success. I have great pleasure in inaugurating this course and wishing you all the best.

Victim of Inflation

The World Matchplay Championship, one of the most popular golf tournaments in Britain, has not been held in 1976. Carreras Rothmans, the tobacco company which had financed it since 1964 to boost the sales of their products, said they could no longer defray the expenses which had grown considerably as a result of inflation. Before, £16,000 sufficed to organize the tournament and pay for the prizes, and today it takes all of £75,000 to do that.

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FILM REVIEWS

Andru Sinthiya Ratham

The average film goer normally expects to have some entertainment when he visits a theatre to witness a picture. And cinema is the cheapest entertainment available to him. The young dashing director R. Sundaram is well aware of this. In his latest directortial venture "Andru Sinthiya Ratham" (colour) he proves it. The film produced by Geetha Chitra provides good entertainment for a couple of hours.

It is no easy task to manage young children. Director Sundaram has taken with him about a dozen kids, aged between 3 and 15, to the forests and hills of the Yercaud to shoot the film on location. It is the capacity to handle them well that has made the kids give an impressive performance. His touches are in evidence in the stunt sequences as well as love scenes.

The film narrates the efforts of a dacoit in snatching a treasure tugged away somewhere in a village temple and how his machinations were foiled by a group of children and a young man from the army.

The role of Jai (Ram!) suits Jaisankar well. He has acted with ease and grace in the dashing role. His escape from the chasing motorcyclists is thrilling to watch. Padmapriya is charming and glamourous. Sunanthini is impressive as the adventuress. Thengai Srinivasan and Manorama provide the comical interlude.

The music by Kumar is effective. The screenplay and dialogue are by T. N. Balu. Dhath's photography is good.

—

Uyarnthavargal

T. N. Balu has written the screenplay and dialogue and also ably directed Rasleela's "Uyarnthavargal" (Tamil) a remake of Gulzar's Hindi "Koshish". The Tamil version brings home what the Hindi film wanted to drive at.

Kamalahasan and Sujatha, deaf-mutes, are brought together and get married. By sheer preseverence and hard work they come up in life. The purpose of the story is to bring home to the common man that even if one is physically handicapped he can come up well in life if he does not loose heart and work hard. At the same time it also wants others to understand them and be kind to them.

Kamalahasan and Sujatha have done well in their respective roles. Thengai Srinivasan as the blind man is excellent. Srikanth as the vagrant brother of Sujatha is adequate.

The services rendered by the Mercy Home and the Deaf and Dumb School have been well brought out.

Mr Mehra, who has produced the picture, should be given credit for this bold venture.

Punniyam Seithaval

K.S. Gopalakrishnan has tried to find out the answer to the question whether heart transplant would result in change in love and affection towards the patient's near and dear in his own leisurely and circutious way in Ravi Combines' "Punniyam Seithaval" for which he has written the screenplay and dia ogue and has also directed it.

Muthuraman and Sripriya vie with each other for the acting honours. Others in the cast are Vijayakumar, Thengai Srinivasan, Jayalakshmi, Pandari Bai, Sukumari and P.R. Varalakshmi.

M. S. Viswanathan has set to tune the lyrics of Vali.

S. S. Maniam has photographed the film for producer N. S. Rajendran.

DEEPAM

Sivaji Ganesan in a conflict-torn character gives a masterly performance in Sujatha Art Movies' "DEEPAM" in colour. In another challenging role Sujatha equals him in acting. Nagesh scores top honours in a brief but impressive role. Veteran S.V. Subbiah lives in the role of a warm, yet strong father of the heroine. Vijayakumar, Balajee, Padmini, Sangeetha, Sachu, Manorama, Surilirajan, and Satyapriya are also in the cast.

The camera in the hands of Nathan has swesot over a panorama of breath-taking scenery and fabulous sets. It is a feast to the eyes.

The re-recording and Elayaraja's Music are good.

Jesudas and Janaki have rendered a duet song which is pleasant.

A. L. Narayanan has written the dialogues for the film.

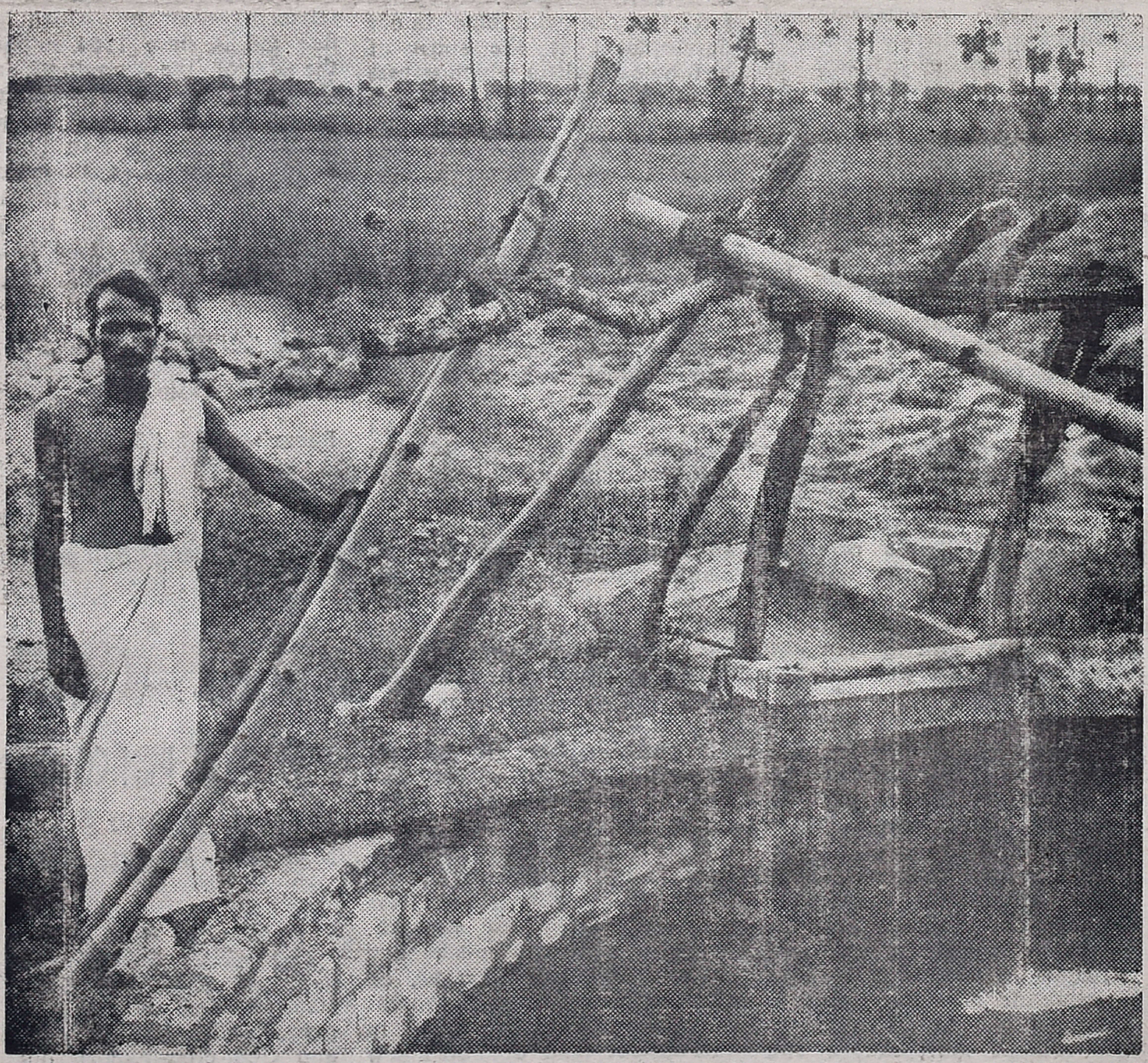
K. Vijayan has ably directed the film.

—

Pasumpon Fine Arts

Pasumpon Fine Arts organised a function to celebrate the 80th performance of Stage Image's "Kadalneer Inikkum" by Prabhu on January 16 at Kalaivanar Arangam, Madras.

Cine director Panju presided over the function held in the immediate presence of Isaimani Sirkazhi S. Govindarajan. Director Panju presented a memento to Prabhu on behalf of the sabha. T. Muthuswami Thevar, President of Pasumpon Fine Arts, honoured Prabhu with a garland. M. Muthuswami, Secretary, welcomed the gathering.



Loan To The Benefit Of Small Farmer

G.M. Kaliaperumal of Nilgiri village owns 2.7 acres of dry lands which are entirely dependent on rain water for cultivation. He can only grow gingelly or groundnut or pulses and even if he takes two crops a year, his total net profit after deduction of costs, would not exceed Rs. 600/- per year. If he owns a well, he can grow paddy in his field and this would increase his income.

Under the minor irrigation scheme, SFDA agreed to finance him for digging the well and recommended a long term loan of Rs. 5,500 at 11% interest out of which 25% of the loan will be subsidized by SFDA itself. The loan is returnable in 15 yearly instalments. The well was dug in May 1976 and now, in the entire vicinity it is only on Kaliaperumal's land that a lush crop of paddy can be seen amidst crops of gingelly groundnut etc.

Kaliaperumal is now keen on bringing more land under paddy and in addition wants to plant coconut palms and mango trees He is entitled for five coconut seedlings at subsidised price. He is confident that within a year his annual net income would be around Rs. 2000/-. Hard working and ambitious, Kaliaperumal is grateful to SFDA for helping him in earning a better living.

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